



Costco Wholesale Corporation Announces Quarterly Cash Dividend

July 12, 2004

ISSAQUAH, Wash.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--July 12, 2004--Costco Wholesale Corporation (Nasdaq: COST) today announced that its Board of Directors has declared a quarterly cash dividend on Costco Wholesale common stock. The dividend of \$0.10 per share is payable August 27, 2004, to shareholders of record at the close of business on July 23, 2004.

Costco currently operates 434 warehouses, including 321 in the United States and Puerto Rico, 63 in Canada, 15 in the United Kingdom, five in Korea, three in Taiwan, four in Japan and 23 in Mexico. The Company also operates Costco Online, an electronic commerce web site, at www.costco.com. The Company plans to open an additional seven new warehouses prior to the end of its fiscal year 2004 on August 29, 2004.

CONTACT: Costco Wholesale Corporation
Richard Galanti, 425/313-8203
Bob Nelson, 425/313-8255
Jeff Elliott, 425/313-8264

SOURCE: Costco Wholesale Corporation